

### **Remarks**

Applicants request consideration on the merits of the above-referenced patent application.

#### **I. Amendments to the specification**

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.78 and MPEP §202.01, Applicants have amended the specification to insert a paragraph identifying the patent applications to which this patent application claims priority. Applicants request that that paragraph be entered into this patent application.

#### **II. Amendments to the claims**

This Preliminary Amendment A cancels claims 15 and 16, and adds new claims 17-22. Thus, claims 1-14 and 17-22 are pending. Claims 1-11, 13, and 14 have been amended. All the claims, including the amendments, are shown in the previous section. Applicants submit that the amendments do not introduce new matter. Specifically:

Claim 7 has been amended to depend from claim 1 rather than from any one of claims 1 through 6.

Claim 9 has been amended to depend from claim 1 rather than from any one of claims 1 through 8.

Claim 10 has been amended to depend from claim 1 rather than from any one of claims 1 through 9.

Claim 13 has been amended to depend from claim 10 rather than from any one of claims 10 through 12.

Claim 14 has been amended to depend from claim 10 rather than from any one of claims 1 through 13.

Other amendments simply rephrase the claims, or correct grammatical or obvious errors. Applicants submit that such amendments are permissible under MPEP §2163.07.

New claim 17 is directed to a method for preventing, slowing down, and/or reversing damage in an organic material due to oxidation and/or hydrolysis reactions. The method comprises treating the organic material with an antioxidant for about 1 minute to about 72 hours at a temperature of about 0 to about 100°C at pressure of about 0.001 to about 300 bar

in an atmosphere that is low in oxygen. The antioxidant comprises one or more compounds independently selected from the group consisting of complexing agents, UV absorbers/quenchers, radical scavengers, peroxide decomposing agents, and reducing agents. Claim 17 is supported by, for example, originally-filed claim 10 and lines 2-5 and 12-15 on page 3 of the English version of the application.

New claims 18-22 depend from claim 17, and are supported by, for example, originally-filed claims 2, 5, 6, 11, and 13.

Applicants reserve the right to claim any canceled and/or unclaimed subject matter in one or more later-filed continuation (including divisional) applications.

\* \* \* \* \*

Applicants submit that the claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants claim small entity status, and authorize the Commissioner to charge \$515.00 to Deposit Account No. **08-0750** to cover the fees for this application (*i.e.*, basic national fee, examination fee, search fee, and late oath fee). Applicants do not believe that they owe any additional fee in connection with this filing. If, however, Applicants owe any such fee(s), the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge those fee(s) to Deposit Account No. **08-0750**. In addition, if there is ever any other fee deficiency or overpayment under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 and 1.17 in connection with this patent application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such deficiency or overpayment to Deposit Account No. **08-0750**.

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned if any questions arise that can be addressed over the phone to expedite examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



Lydia N. Nenow, PTO Reg. No. 52,530  
Harness, Dickey & Pierce, PLC  
7700 Bonhomme, Suite 400  
St. Louis, Missouri 63105  
(314) 726-7500 (tel)  
(314) 726-7501 (fax)

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR § 1.8**

I certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on **March 16, 2006** with sufficient postage as first class mail (including Express Mail per MPEP §512), and addressed to **Mail Stop PCT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450**.



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Lydia N. Nenow, PTO Reg. No. 52,530

LNN/TML